



# *FRANKLIN FIRE DEPARTMENT*

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## **P R E S S   R E L E A S E**

DATE OF INCIDENT: 12 December 2009

TIME OF INCIDENT: 5:50 AM

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: 1199 West Central Street

PROPERTY OWNER: GARELICK FARMS

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Hazardous Materials Leak

### INCIDENT SYNOPSIS

At 5:50 AM fire dispatch received a telephone call reporting a large vapor cloud at the Garelick Farms factory at 1199 West Central Street. Upon arrival, firefighters found no visible vapor cloud but a noticeable odor of ammonia in the area.

Firefighters immediately evacuated the interior of the building of all employees and with the aid of the Franklin Police Department stopped all traffic on Route 140 from Grove Street to the Bellingham Town line. Franklin received assistance on-scene from the State's Regional Hazardous Materials Response Team.

It appears the vapor cloud was generated by a pressure relief valve in the plants ammonia system. Ammonia is use with the factory as a refrigerant. The actual cause of the activation of the relief valve is not known at the time of this report. Actions were taken by plant engineers to stabilize the system to prevent any further release of gas.

Monitoring around the plant during the incident reveal no detectable traces of vapor. Representatives from the State Department of Environmental Protection were also on-scene during the incident. Fire units released the building to Garelick representatives at 7:55 AM.

For further information regarding the details of this incident please contact Fire Chief Gary McCarraher @ 508-528-2323.